

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) An implant for promoting intervertebral fusion, comprising:
a cage having two sidewalls, a posterior backwall, and an anterior opening ~~front~~ allowing
the cage to be packed with bone graft and/or biologic materials *in situ* using an anterior approach;
and

a physically separate, rigid gate element for closing the anterior opening after the cage is
positioned in an intervertebral disc space and packed with bone graft and/or biologic materials ~~front~~.

2. (Original) The implant of claim 1, wherein the cage and gate are constructed of a
radiolucent material.

3. (Currently Amended) The implant of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the cage and gate are
constructed of ~~a radiolucent material~~ is carbon fiber.

4. (Currently Amended) The implant of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein:
the cage is constructed of a radiolucent material; and
further including one or more radiopaque markers on the cage.

5. (Original) The implant of claim 1, wherein the backwall is indented to minimize
neurocompression.

6. (Original) The implant of claim 1, wherein the backwall is expandable so that the
sidewalls can be closer together for insertion and spread apart after implantation.

7. (Currently Amended) The implant of claim 1, wherein:
the sidewalls have a posterior height and an anterior height; and
wherein the posterior height is less than the anterior height, thereby forming a trapezoid. and
~~backwall form a trapezoid.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The implant of claim [[1]] 7, wherein the trapezoid is differently shaped for different vertebral levels.

9. (Original) The implant of claim 1, further including one or more jigs for fixing the cage in position, including a jig for driving a screw through an upper vertebra into the cage or through the cage into a lower vertebra.

10. (New) The implant of claim 1, wherein sidewalls have a convex upper edge.

11. (New) The implant of claim 1, wherein:
the backwall has opposing lateral edges; and
wherein each sidewall is rigidly affixed to the backwall at the lateral edges.

12. (New) The implant of claim 1, further including:
an expandable backwall with opposing lateral edges; and
wherein each sidewall is rigidly affixed to the backwall at the lateral edges.

13. (New) The implant of claim 1, further including:
an expandable backwall; and
wherein the sidewalls are generally parallel to one another before and after the expansion of the backwall.

14. (New) The implant of claim 1, wherein the cage has an open top and bottom.

15. (New) The implant of claim 1, wherein:
the sidewalls terminate in anterior edges; and
wherein the gate element extends to each anterior edge.

16. (New) The implant of claim 1, wherein the sidewalls are generally to one another.